

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850

Sacramento, California 95814

Contact: Lisa Casalegno (916) 445-2636

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE CONTROLLER KATHLEEN CONNELL EXPLAINS TAX RELIEF FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Troops Fighting War on Terror Can Delay Certain Tax Payments

Sacramento, October 18, 2001 – State Controller Kathleen Connell today notified all County Tax Collectors within the State of California of the Federal Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA), in an effort to assure military personnel are provided all possible support during the current crisis in Afghanistan.

“The Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act will give troops fighting Operation Enduring Freedom some added support by offering leniency in tax collection,” said Connell. “Our military personnel can devote full attention to their duties, without worry that they may lose their house due to property taxes that may be going unpaid back home.”

The SSCRA was enacted in 1940 and offers protection to all personnel entering or called to active duty in military service, including reservists and members of the National Guard. It postpones or suspends certain tax obligations beginning on the date of active duty and terminating within one to three months after discharge from active duty.

“We ask people to leave their families and put their lives on hold to fight for their country, and in return we are able to offer just a little peace of mind,” said Connell. “My goal is to assure that all counties understand this provision and are prepared to provide this relief to our troops.”

Some of the provisions of the SSCRA are as follows:

- Counties may not charge more than 6% interest for overdue taxes.
- Counties may not issue penalties for overdue taxes.
- Counties may not sell property to acquire back taxes.

The Controller’s Office is authorized by law to provide instruction and advice to tax collectors and to outline the provisions of the SSCRA.

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